

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MINISTER OF HEALTH COMMENTS ON FAMILY PLANNING

1. IN ANOTHER OF A SERIES OF SPEECHES BY GOP MINISTERS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES, GEN. FERNANDO MIRO QUIESADA, HEALTH MINISTER, ADDRESSED NATION EVENING OF MARCH 31. SPEECH ITSELF WAS UNREMARKABLE AS IT NOTED EXPECTED GOP INVESTMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR, REPORTED ON NUMBER OF NEW HOSPITALS PLANNED, TALKED OF SOCIALIZED MEDICINE, FORMATION OF SOCIAL PROPERTY ENTERPRISES IN HEALTH FIELD AND OTHER PREDICTABLE TOPICS.

2. OF GREATER INTEREST WAS TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FOLLOWED DURING WHICH MINISTER RESPONDED TO QUESTION ON BIRTH CONTROL. HE STATED THAT GOP WILL MAINTAIN ITS POLICY OF "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION SO THAT PERUVIANS CAN FREELY EXERCISE THIS RIGHT (OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD)". HE FURTHER STATED THAT "PERU IS QUITE LARGE AND HAS TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ITS POPULATION SHOULD, THEREFORE, GROW SO THAT WE WILL HAVE THE NECESSARY HUMAN POTENTIAL TO EXPLOIT THE GAMUT OF RICHES WITH WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FAVORED." HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY BIG POWERS OPPOSE GROWTH IN POPULATION OF PERU AND ANSWERED "BECAUSE THERE EXISTS AN ASOCIACION PERUANA DE PROTECCION FAMILIAR (APPF) WHICH WE KICKED

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OUT OR FORCED TO LEAVE AND AN IPPF, THE INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATION THAT CARRIES A EUPHEMISTIC NAME TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT INDEFENSIBLE ACTIVITIES." (COMMENT: HE MINISTER HIMSELF WAS REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR NOT TERMINATING APPF ACTIVITIES FOR ALMOST A YEAR AFTER HAVING BEEN TOLD TO DO SO. THUS, THE ATTACK WAS PROBABLY INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR PRESIDENT VELASCO'S BENEFIT.)

3. MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT "THOSE IMPERIALIST POWERS WANT US TO CONTINUE BEING UNDERDEVELOPED AND THAT THE MEANS AND RESOURCES THAT EXIST IN OUR COUNTRY NOT BE DEVELOPED BECAUSE IF THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES BEGIN TO HAVE A CONSCIENCE AND INCREASE THEIR HUMAN POTENTIAL, THOSE POWERS MUST BE LOSING SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT." HE STATED THAT REVOLUTION BEING "HUMANISTIC, LIBERTARIAN, SOCIALISTIC AND REVOLUTIONARY" RECOGNIZED HUMAN DIGNITY. FOR THAT REASON, HE SAID, PERUVIAN COUPLES CAN HAVE WHATEVER SIZE FAMILY THEY WANT, STATING THAT HE HIMSELF HAS ONLY TWO CHILDREN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT GOP SUPPORTS "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" AS OPPOSED TO "BIRTH CONTROL" AND THAT GOP POLICY MUST BE ACCCOMPANIED BY ADEQUATE EDUCATION BECAUSE "UNDERDEVELOPMENT IS, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MENTAL (IT IS) DUE TO LACK OF EDUCATION WHICH (IN PAST) HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED (BECAUSE IT WAS NOT IN) THE INTERESTS OF THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES." HE CLOSED BY QUIPPING "THEY HAS US CONVINCED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TO EXPLOIT THE OIL, YOU HAD TO BE BLONDE AND BLUE-EYED AND THAT INDIANS AND MESTIZOS (CHOLOS) AND NEGROES COULDNT DO IT."

4. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF SPEECH WAS THAT IT REPRESENTED FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN FAVOR OF SOME FORM OF FAMILY PLANNING ("RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD"), ALTHOUGH MINISTER TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT "DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" AND "BIRTH CONTROL" AND STATEMENT CLOAKED IN ATTACK AGAINST IMPERIALIST MOTIVATIONS. WHILE ATTACK IS UNDESIRABLE, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF BOTH REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC AND MINISTER'S PERSONAL AMBITIONS (I.E., HIS DESIRE TO BE NEXT CHIEF OF AIR FORCE). END COMMENT.

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5. INTERESTING TETE-A TETE OCCURRED WHEN LOCAL UPI REPRESENTATIVE HUBERT CAM ASKED MINISTER IF HE WAS SURPRISED BY ARTICLE IN LOCAL MAGAZINE CARETAS (WHICH DETAILED SQUALID CONDITIONS IN DOS DE MAYO HOSPITAL AND MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSE OF DEPORTATION OF CO-EDITOR ENRIQUE ZILERI AND MAGAZINE'S CLOSURE) AND WHETHER

HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH OR HAD HAD CHANCE TO VISIT THIS AND OTHER HOSPITALS. AFTER AWKWARD MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINISTER ASKED CAM IF HE WAS PERUVIAN, TO WHICH CAM ANSWERED IN AFFIRMATIVE. MINISTER THEN STATED "AND DO YOU THINK THAT THE MINISTER OF HEALTH OF PERU IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DOS DE MAYO AND THE OTHER HOSPITALS." HE WENT ON TO ATTACK "MERCENARY JOURNALISTS" WHO ATTACK A GOVERNMENT BY USING THE SICK AND AGED. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT CARETAS USED "FORGED" PHOTOS TO PROVE THAT PATIENTS AT DOS DE MAYO ARE TREATED IN "DEPLORABLE" SURROUNDINGS.

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